

## ***FEATURE ARTICLE***

### **Naval Postgraduate School – Meeting Today’s Security Challenges Worldwide**

**By**

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The new security challenges confronting our nation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century demand new response capabilities, require effective civilian and military interagency alliances, and necessitate bilateral and multilateral cooperation from our allies and friends.

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) is in the forefront developing innovative new programs that meet today’s security challenges. As a result, on May 24, 2004, the United States designated NPS (located in Monterey, California), as a Partnership for Peace (PFP) Education and Training Center, the only such center of the United States. NPS was selected because of its forward looking graduate education programs and experience in delivering mobile education worldwide.

Founded in 1909, NPS is one of the oldest graduate institutions in the United States for military officers and government civilians. It offers, in one location, academic excellence and research with a direct link to defense and students from all U.S. military services and more than 60 countries worldwide.

#### **What is SIGS?**

Established in 2001, the School of International Graduate Studies (SIGS) is one of the newest and most dynamic schools within the Naval Postgraduate School.



**Dean, School of International Graduate Studies**

“The dynamics of international politics is ever changing SIGS is the intellectual frontline in providing our students with the necessary knowledge and skills to meet today’s complex and challenging security environments.”

SIGS’ mission is to educate the next generation of U.S. and international leaders. To do so, we prepare students for assignments in defense and foreign policy, international relations, and security cooperation. SIGS offers in-residence graduate-level studies and programs to U.S. and international students in the areas of national security studies (such as civil-

military relations, and stability and reconstruction) and regional studies (such as Middle East). The School of International Graduate Studies is comprised of the following centers and institutes.

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#### SIGS Mission

Educate the next generation of U.S. and international leaders.

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- Department of National Security Affairs
- Defense Resources Management Institute
- Center for Civil-Military Relations
- Center for Homeland Defense and Security (for U.S. students only)
- International Graduate Programs Office

Separate articles in this journal provide in-depth information about each of the centers and institutes.

## Programs Offered

<b>Graduate Programs:</b>	<p>Masters Degree programs (12-24 months) for U.S. and international military officers, and civilians. All Masters degree programs are held in-residence in Monterey, California. Two curricula studies are offered.</p> <p><b><u>Regional Studies</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Civil-Military Relations</li> <li>-Stabilization &amp; Reconstruction</li> <li>-Defense Decision Making &amp; Planning</li> <li>-Homeland Security (U.S. students)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Security Studies</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Middle East, Africa, South Asia</li> <li>-Far East, Southeast Asia Pacific</li> <li>-Western Hemisphere</li> <li>-Russia, Europe, Central Asia</li> </ul>
<b>In-residence Short Courses :</b>	<p>Non-degree programs. Short-term seminars, held at NPS, are intensive 1-4 weeks workshops focusing on today's defense topics, such as combating terrorism, counter-drug, defense resources management, defense restructuring, and others. All classes are conducted in English. For a complete list, visit our website at: <a href="http://www.nps.navy.mil/sigs">http://www.nps.navy.mil/sigs</a></p>
<b>Mobile Education Teams (METs):</b>	<p>SIGS specializes in delivering Mobile Education Teams (METs) worldwide. These are 1-4 weeks mobile courses tailored to the special needs of the requesting country in areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Combating terrorism</li> <li>-Interoperability of forces</li> <li>-Defense resources management - Peacekeeping &amp; peace operations</li> <li>-Defense restructuring - and many, many others</li> </ul> <p>No English proficiency is required. Classes are conducted with simultaneous or continuous translation at the country's selected location.</p>

**Participants:** Our U.S. students are military personnel (mid-to-senior rank) from all services and civilians from all federal agencies.

Depending on the course or seminar, our international students include: senior executives, military officers, program managers, policy makers and legislators.

### **The SIGS Experience**

Real world applicability of courses to meet today's security challenges.

Share experiences with international counterparts—our international “mix” of students is unmatched anywhere.

Share knowledge with U.S. students from all military departments and federal agencies.

Prepare participants for international assignments—as defense attachés, foreign area officers, combatant command, etc.

### **Real world applicability of courses**

SIGS programs are geared towards real world situations. Students can utilize what they learn in class for their current or future assignments; for example, the Enhanced International Peacekeeping Capabilities Program (EIPC). This security assistance program, started by the U.S. State Department and the Department of Defense (DoD) in 1998, aims to increase the pool of international armed forces capable of participating in peace support operations (PSO).

The problem we face is that every country contributing to a peace support operation has a different operational style and set of command skills. SIGS is the DoD executive agent for promoting training standardization and strengthening the military effectiveness for each EIPC country.



*Photo: Robert Searcey*  
**School of International Graduate Studies (SIGS)**

To optimize the impact of PSO training, SIGS applies the “teach-the-teachers” concept, specifically focusing on - peacekeeping trainers, educators, and policy officers. Once these “trainers” complete our course, they return to their respective country and teach others. Our methods work. As a result of PSO training various countries have changed their peacekeeping training curriculum.

### **Innovative Programs**

Our curricula look forward. SIGS offers a number of unique, first-ever educational programs geared toward today's challenges, such as Homeland Defense and Security, counter-terrorism, counter-drug seminars, among others.

### **Share experience with international counterparts**

Our international mix of students is unmatched anywhere. We have the largest number of in-resident international officers and government sponsored civilians than any other DoD Professional Military Education (PME) institution. At present, we have more than 300 international students from 61 countries attending our various graduate degree programs and 495 students from more than 103 countries in short courses (one to four weeks in duration).

### **Share knowledge with students from all U.S. military services (Navy, Marines, Army, Air Force, and others)**

Develop new and lasting friendships. Enliven the learning experience. Each international student is paired with a U.S. host student. Many live in U.S. military housing. Our international students share knowledge and gain new perspectives from their U.S. counterparts.

### **Prepare participants for their next assignments**

How does our international focus help our students? Our U.S. students gain a unique experience--they work along side future leaders from the very countries they are studying. This pays huge dividends in their overseas assignments as foreign area officers, defense attaches, intelligence officers, and political-military experts. This also applies to our international students detailed to the U.S.

### **No textbook overview, our students gain current and relevant information**

Our faculty and staff teach and work on crosscutting issues with the Defense Department, and other governmental sponsors. They also travel around the world conducting seminars. Our students benefit tremendously from the insights gained from our instructors' expertise and their assistance to foreign governments.

### **Global Influence**

SIGS specializes in global education. Our global reach is extensive—we are in partnership with 96 universities in 43 countries. Our Mobile Education Teams (METs) travel around the world helping countries to rebuild and restructure their defense policies, programs, and curricula.

What makes our METs effective? The answer—our approach is different. We

work hand-in-hand with countries to tailor specific programs to meet their needs. This is the number one reason why more prime ministers, ministers of defense, presidential advisors, chiefs of staff of defense forces, members of parliaments and legislators, and other ranking officials graduated from NPS METs than from any other professional military graduate education institution.

As noted earlier, our mission is to educate future generations of U.S. and international leaders. SIGS is here to provide students with the knowledge and skills to face today's and tomorrow's new challenges. I look forward to welcoming you to SIGS.

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**About the Author:** Robert L. Ord III, a retired Lieutenant General in the U.S. Army, was selected to be Dean of SIGS in October, 2002. He retired from the Army after serving as the Commanding General, U.S. Army, Pacific.

Should you have any question(s) about the Naval Postgraduate School of International Graduate Studies, please call (831) 656-3781 or visit us at our website at <http://www.nps.navy.mil/sigs>